March 15, 1969

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Jack Greenberg, Director, Legal Defense Fund, National Association For The Advancement of Colored People, contacted our New York Office on 3-14-69, and advised that Attorney Russell Thompson, Memphis, Tennessee, who professed to have once represented James Earl Ray, was to meet Greenberg on 3-17-69, to furnish him names of other people involved with Ray in the Martin Luther King killing. Greenberg requested an Agent be present at the meeting. The "New York Daily News" contacted Greenberg regarding Thompson's visit but Greenberg did not advise them of purpose of trip. Nothing derogatory in Bureau files concerning Greenberg.

About one week after the King murder and before Ray was identified as the assassin, Thompson contacted our Memphis Office and related that he had been visited by a man whom he would not identify because of possible client-attorney relationship. This man indicated he might need legal help in the future and advised Thompson that authorities were wrong about murder weapon and killer had fled on a motorcycle and not in a white Mustang. It is significant to note that after Ray was identified as the subject, Thompson contacted Memphis Office and indicated that the unknown man was probably a mental case but Thompson still refused to identify him.

To prevent charges being made that FBI would not accept information concerning a possible conspiracy, it is recommended that New York be instructed to have an Agent present to accept any information Thompson has to offer.

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